

# NCDOT TO BEGIN CONSTRUCTING THE U.S. 17 WASHINGTON BYPASS IN BEAUFORT COUNTY

## PROJECT OVERVIEW

- ❖ The N.C. Department of Transportation will begin constructing the new four lane U.S. 17 Washington Bypass in February 2007. The 6.8-mile project will stretch from Price Road (State Road 1149) to Springs Road (S.R. 1509) in Beaufort County.
- ❖ Crews will begin working primarily on the bridges over U.S. 264 and 15<sup>th</sup> Street. However, motorists can expect lane closures, detours and traffic shifts throughout the entire project area.
- ❖ The \$192 million project was awarded to FLATIRON/UNITED, A Joint Venture, and is expected to be complete in November 2010.
- ❖ The U.S. 17 Washington Bypass is the first Beaufort County project constructed using the design-build method, which reduces a project's completion time by contracting a single firm to simultaneously design and construct the project.
- ❖ As construction progresses, NCDOT will distribute press releases to newspapers, radio stations and TV stations to notify the public of upcoming impacts to traffic. Message boards will also provide motorists with current construction information.
- ❖ The bridge over the Pamlico River features a new type of guardrail that is being used for the first time in North Carolina and a lower bridge grade that helps keep down the cost of construction while maintaining a high level of safety.

## PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

The new bypass will include:

- ❖ Four bridges
  - N.C. 33 over U.S. 17
  - U.S. 17 over the Pamlico River
  - U.S. 17 over U.S. 264
  - U.S. 17 over 15th Street
- ❖ Two major interchanges:
  - U.S. 17 and N.C. 33
  - U.S. 17 and U.S. 264
- ❖ A 65 mile per hour speed limit

The bypass will also considerably relieve traffic congestion on existing U.S. 17 and improve access to areas in eastern North Carolina.

For more information, please contact the resident engineer at (252) 830-3495.

